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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,314	12/31/2001	David E. Pitcher	ROSE-10	4519
7590	11/04/2003		EXAMINER	
Donald N. Halgren 35 Central St Manchester, MA 01944				KIM, SANG K
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3654

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	DAVID E. PITCHER
10/037,314	
Examiner SANG KIM	Art Unit 3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 8/27/03 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of any patent granted on application number 10036756 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 6, "arrangedon" should be "arranged on".

Claim 5, second paragraph, "rings each arranged each arranged" should be "rings each arranged". Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gomberg, U.S. Patent No. 2533731.

Referring to claims 1-5, Gomberg teaches a pair of annular hubs 6, 7; a rigid flange extending radially outwardly on each said end of said hubs 6, 7, each of said flanges having a peripheral outer lip 4, 5, each of said peripheral outer

lips on each of said flanges being spaced apart from one another a distance less than twice said certain diameter of said cable as shown in Figs. 1-6, and described in column 3, lines 2-17.

The recitation in the claim of a cable shortener apparatus for permitting the length adjustment of a cable supporting a sign carrier from an overhead support, relates only to a possible or intended use of the device being claimed, but does not further structurally limit the device.

With respect to claims 7-8, the method described in these claims would inherently result from the use of invention of Gomberg as advanced above.

Response to Arguments

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Applicant's arguments filed on 8/27/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive with respect to claims 1-5 and 7-8.

Applicant argues that in the amended independent claims require the rims to be separated a distance greater than the diameter of the cable and less than twice the diameter of the cable which overcomes the rejection based on Gomberg, on column 3, lines 6-11, teaches that the rims 4-5 be separated a distance equal to the thickness of the yarn between the rims.

Examiner disagrees with the applicant because the applicant fails to look at the whole invention. Gomberg's apparatus is not limited to the gap of equal to the thickness of the yarn. In column 3, lines 29-33 and lines 41-42, the bobbin may be manipulated to space the rims apart and may be entirely separated.

~Furthermore, figs. 2-3 and 5-6 shows many different selections of the width of the gap.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sang Kim whose telephone number is (703) 305-3712. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. alternating Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone numbers are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3654

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

SK

10/30/03



KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600